

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2911

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY

SUBJECT: CLERIDES' STATEMENT JANUARY 17

REF: NICOSIA 0167 (DTG 171647Z JAN 76)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PRESIDENT GLAFCOS CLERIDES JANUARY 17 GIVING REASONS WHY
HE DECIDED TO WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AS NEGOTIATOR IN
CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS:

BEGIN TEXT: SERIOUS REASONS LED ME TO THE DECISION TO
TENDER MY RESIGNATION FROM THE POST OF NEGOTIATOR AND
GIVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO
NOMINATE A SUCCESSOR.

I SET OUT THESE REASONS IN DETAIL IN A CONFIDENTIAL
LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE,
MR KARAMANLIS, WHO HAS ASKED ME TO CARRY ON AS INTER-
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LOCUTOR REGARDLESS OF ANY REASONS.

I CANNOT MAKE PUBLIC ANYTHING ABOUT THE MATTER AT ISSUE AS THIS WOULD CAUSE GREAT NATIONAL HARM. I STATE CATEGORICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO GROUND WHATSOEVER IN PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT AT THE RECENT JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS I DISAGREED WITH THE LINE TO BE FOLLOWED ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM OR THE APPOINTMENT OF ADVISERS. NOR HAS MY DECISION BEEN INFLUENCED IN ANY WAY BY THE WAR OF ATTRITION AGAINST ME AS INTERLOCUTOR OR BY THE ATTACKS LAUNCHED LONG AGO AGAINST ME NJND PERIODICALLY REPEATED.

THE REASONS STATED IN MY LETTER ARE WIDER AND TOUCH UPON THE MORE GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE FEEL CONCERN AND ANXIETY EACH TIME THE INTERLOCUTOR INDICATES AN INTENTION TO RESIGN.

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INSTANCES ALSOHLF WHICH CONDITIONS, EVENTS OR ACTIONS COMPELLED ME TO EXPRESS INTENTION TO RESIGN. IN EACH CASE, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SERIOUS REASONS AND MY ONLY MOTIVE AND AIM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO SAVE THE PROCESS OF THE TALKS AND SAFEGUARD THE PRESTIGE OF THE INTERLOCUTOR - WHOEVER HE MAY BE - AND CONSEQUENTLY HIS EFFECTIVENESS, FOR I BELIEVE THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ARE THE APPROPRIATE WAY CAPABLE OF LEADING TO THE FINDING OF A JUST AND HONOURABLE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM - A VIEW VOICED ALSO BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN ITS APPEAL TO ME TO CONTINUE AS INTERLOCUTOR.

I RECALL THAT ON ONE OCCASION I THREATENED TO RESIGN IF THE THEN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GREECE DID NOT PUT AN END TO THE ATHENS-DIRECTED UNDRMINING OF THE PROCESS OF THE TALKS AND ON ANOTHER IS NO END WERE PUT TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE, AND I CLEARLY WARNED THAT CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE WOULD NOT ALLOW THE TALKS TO REACH ANY CONCLUSION AND WOULD BRING UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT A NEW ASIA MINOR DISASTER WITH CYPRUS BEARING THE IMPACT.

I CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT DESPITE THE TENDER OF MY RESIGNATION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL HAVE NOT ACCEPTED IT AND HAVE NOT APPOINTED ANOTHER INTERLOCUTOR IN THE MEANWHILE.

I CANNOT IGNORE THE VIEWS OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES WHICH AS ITS PRESIDENT I HAVE TO
TAKE INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, THE WISH EXPRESSED
BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE, MR KARAMANLIS,
THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF THE U.N. SECRETARY-
GENERAL OR THE SUPPORT EXPRESSED TO THE INTER-
LOCUTOR IN MANY WAYS AND FROM MANY QUARTERS.
THEREFORE, I HAVE TO CARRY ON AS INTERLOCUTOR,
EXPECTING THAT THE REASONS SET OUT IN MY LETTER
WILL BE DULY DEALT WITH. END TEXT.
CRAWFORD

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